Digital Libraries and Higher Education in Nigeria in 21st Century

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Abstract

Higher education in Nigeria has come under severe criticisms in recent time due to poor quality of its products. There is therefore an urgent need for academic institutions in Nigeria to catch up with innovations in educational practices in developed economies. This paper explores the benefits of digital libraries to higher education in Nigeria in the 21st century. It examines the challenges being faced by higher education in Nigeria. These include the deplorable state of the libraries, inadequate funding, severe shortfall in teacher: student ratio, poor quality of graduates, increasing demand for participation in higher education, among others. It highlights the fact that digital libraries are critical and essential for effective teaching, research, and learning in all tertiary institutions in the 21st century and it should therefore be a priority. However, the paper stresses that the development of digital libraries should not be conceived as a panacea for the myriads of challenges facing higher education in Nigeria but that it is a technology that promises to address some of these challenges. Therefore, strong and unwavering commitment by all the stakeholders towards the deployment of digital libraries in tertiary education is recommended.

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The 21st century is technically all about gadgets and new technologies. The rate at which new technologies are being invented and brought into the market, it is quite a surprise. Replacement of the old techniques and introduction of new ones are not so fascinating. Higher education has always faced intense changes in its core. This is primarily because, it is one domain where people generally take up their specialised subjects and there is a lot of scope for variation. There is also a high chance of penetration of a number of trends which revolutionize this concept of higher education to a great extent. It is that stage where students also tend to make certain massive changes in their career, so it is important that this higher level of education be changing with time. A functioning 21st-century library system, therefore, energizes the curriculum and the school more generally, in some areas driving school life and culture. Libraries can be classroom spaces, and librarians teachers, as demonstrated in an information literacy class in the United States. (Photo submitted by Gina Finley, Technology Assistance Librarian, Dublin Scioto High School, Ohio, USA). Libraries should reflect what an active 21st-century information hub can and should be, and for IB World Schools they should also fully energize as well as support an IB education. Realities librarians face in IB World Schools. (Photo submitted by Carole Mondin, then at American International School of Lagos, Nigeria). Open conversations on libraries.